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Endangering Lives .

His case is so unusual, it is not clear exactly what action should be taken against him—but some drastic response is needed.

Philip Agee is giving aid and comfort to the enemies who would destroy the United States of America and our people. He is endangering the lives of Americans who serve our country. His is an offense that cannot be taken lightly.

Agee is a renegade former CIA agent. He left the CIA in Mexico in 1969. He had that right. He was disillusioned. He had that right. He published a so-called "expose" book about the CIA without getting the clearance that his conditions of employment imposed and he accepted. He did not have that right.

But as bad as that was, he now is engaged in something far worse. He has gone beyond criticism of the CIA and its policies and procedures.

In Communist Cuba, for a meeting of anti-Americans, he revealed plans to identify some 700 CIA and National Security Agency people working in countries throughout the world.

In "blowing their cover," he threatens their lives. He answers that if they are in danger then the United States will bring them home. His purpose clearly is to cripple the intelligence services that are essential to provide the United States information it must have to avoid war and to protect itself against the depredations of the Communist enemies of freedom in this troubled world.

Agee is self-exiled, reportedly living in Rome. What should be done about him and what could be done?

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., says he should have his citizenship revoked. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, says he should be jailed. If this were wartime and he were caught, he might be subject to being shot.

The proper action against him is in question, but there should be no question that the American people ought to condemn his dangerous attack upon Americans who serve us in intelligence work that is necessary for our safety.